

Dear Representative,

With the transformation of health care we are looking for changes that benefit the patient and are cost-effective. This bill does both. More and more patients in the long-term care facilities are requiring intravenous therapies during their stay. Certain IV therapies require a central catheter such as a PICC line in order to avoid vein and tissue damage that can occur when given through peripheral lines. Currently, long-term care residents must be transported by ambulance to and from the hospital to have the PICC line inserted at great distress to the patient and cost to all. Therefore, many facilities may utilize peripheral lines when a PICC line is more appropriate for the ordered therapy. The results can be detrimental.

This change in legislation would increase compliance with national infusion therapy standards, make the therapy safer for the patient, and decrease costs and liability.

We have the technology (portable ultrasound machines) available NOW that can be taken to the bedside, and the PICC line safely inserted by a skilled, educated, credentialed and validated Registered Nurse. These same skilled, educated, credentialed and validated Registered Nurses could also remove the PICCs in the Long Term Care Facility. Connecticut is one of the few states in the country that does not allow this procedure to be done in a Long Term Care Facility. Our neighbor states Massachusetts and Rhode Island have been performing PICC insertions and removals in Long Term Care successfully for many years. We already have the skilled Registered Nurses and the technology to safely insert and remove PICC lines. Connecticut is ready to move forward.

Thank-you,

*Eve Curtin RN CRNI*

*President/Owner*

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